

IV. REMARKS

1. Claims 1-15 remain in the application. Claims 7, 13 and 15 have been amended.

2. The specification has been amended to correct the priority claim. Applicants are in the process of obtaining new executed declarations with the proper claim of priority.

3. The Title has been amended to reflect the claimed invention.

4. Claim 7 has been rewritten in independent form to overcome the objection in the present Office Action.

5. Claims 13 and 15 have been amended to overcome the rejections under 35 USC 112, second paragraph.

The amendments to the claims are not limiting, are not made for reasons related to patentability, and do not raise issues of estoppel.

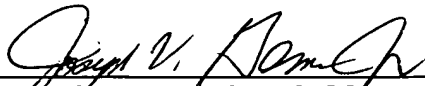
6. Applicants wish to express their appreciation for the indication that claims 1-6, 8-12, and 14 are allowed.

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now present in the application are clearly novel and patentable over the prior art of record, and are in proper form for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested. Should any unresolved issues remain, the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

A check in the amount of \$110.00 is enclosed for a 1 month extension of time.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment for any fees associated with this communication or credit any over payment to Deposit Account No. 16-1350.

Respectfully submitted,


Joseph V. Gamberdell, Jr.
Reg. No. 44,695

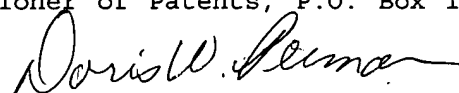
Feb. 4, 2004
Date

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date indicated below as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria VA 22313-1450.

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